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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY North Korea

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

SUBJECT Economic

HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical

DATE DIST. 7 NOV 1949

WHERE PUBLISHED Pyongyang

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED Apr 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Korean

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SOURCE Minju Sangon, No 17, 1949.COMMODITY CIRCULATION AND THE TWO-YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAM

The following analysis of the Two-Year Economic Law as it affects commodity circulation is offered as a means to aid the trade workers in their endeavor to meet commercial quotas.

The responsibility that has been imposed upon the Ministry of Commerce under the Two-Year Economic Law is composed of:

- (a) Maintenance of constant supply of daily necessities for the general public.
- (b) Maintenance of smooth flow of commodities between cities and villages.
- (c) Reducing freight rates as much as possible.
- (d) Reducing the price of consumers' goods.
- (e) Increasing purchasing power of the people's currency.
- (f) Establishments of more state-managed stores and co-operative stores in cities and farm villages.
- (g) Sharp increases in the number of state and co-operative stores.

The Two-Year Economic Law calls for a total commodity circulation in 1949 of 15,995,000,000 won worth of goods and 21,199,500,000 won for 1950. Of the grand total, 17,676,820,000 won will be handled in state stores. The quota figure, when compared with that of 1948, represents an increase of 138 percent for 1949 and 183 percent for 1950. If state store goods are deducted from the figures of 1949 and 1950, it will mean that co-operative store goods' increase over 1948 will be 191 percent for 1949 and 277 percent for 1950.

One of the objectives of the Two-Year Economic Program is to distribute more goods among laborers and office workers in 1949 and 1950. For example, it is the purpose of the program to increase the distribution of daily necessities

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by 174 percent in 1949 over 1948. The increase of goods distribution to be accomplished in 1949 over 1948 is as follows: textile goods 150 percent, rubber goods 200 percent, laundry soap 180 percent, twice as much grain, vegetables, and marine products, and five times as much meat. The program aims at an increase in the number of state and co-operative stores and restaurants to expedite the distribution of goods as well as restaurant service facilities as follows: the state in 1949 will open 152 new stores and 100 new restaurants; the co-operatives will open 230 new stores and 39 new restaurants. In 1950, the state will open 152 new stores and 90 new restaurants; the co-operatives in the same year will open 270 new stores and 54 new restaurants. An appropriation of 257,805,000 won has been provided to help the opening of the new state stores for the years 1949 and 1950.

As a part of this program the government has appropriated a sum of more than 200,000 won to purchase clothing materials in 1949.

There should be constant consultation between the local bodies and those in charge of distribution in order to ascertain the precise needs in various localities, as well as to avoid accumulation of goods in central warehouses. In addition, speedy distribution of goods would bring great savings in the general operating cost.

Public restaurants occupy a very important place in the commodity-circulation program. In addition, the restaurants can render a great service to the laborers, unmarried people, and travelers, as well as to the general public; therefore, utmost effort must be made to improve the public restaurant system throughout North Korea.

Every laborer and office worker must complete the job assigned to him in the specified time. In the methods of distributing the goods, the laborers shall be given preferential rights. In the event any particular goods needed by the laborers are found to be abundant, such goods shall be channeled to various factory stores where the laborers can obtain the goods with a minimum of trouble.

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